

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1                   1.       A system for processing reimbursements to physicians for participating  
2 in a medical study, comprising:

3                   a microprocessor-based controller; and

4                   a computer readable medium, including instructions executable by the  
5 microprocessor-base controller to:

6                   receive patient medical information from a physician relating to the  
7 medical study;

8                   automatically validate the patient medical information;

9                   upon validating the patient medical information, store a reimbursement  
10 record in a database, the reimbursement record indicating at least a reimbursement  
11 amount and the physician to be reimbursed; and

12                  automatically process at least one reimbursement reimbursement to  
13 each physician having one or more reimbursement records in the database.

1                   2.       The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the patient medical  
2 information is selected from the group consisting of medical device information, subjective  
3 patient information, objective patient information, and patient diagnosis information.

1                   3.       The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the database includes a  
2 plurality of reimbursement records, and wherein the computer readable medium further  
3 includes instructions executable by the microprocessor-based controller to:

4                   group at least some of the plurality of reimbursement records into a single  
5 reimbursement file; and

6                   provide to an approval authority access to the reimbursement file.

1                   4.       The system as recited in claim 3, wherein the reimbursement file  
2 comprises a spreadsheet having the at least some of the plurality of reimbursement records  
3 listed therein.

1                   5.       The system as recited in claim 3, wherein the reimbursement file is  
2 electronically forwarded to the approval authority.

1                   6.       The system as recited in claim 3, wherein the approval authority can  
2 approve the reimbursement records for reimbursement reimbursements electronically.

1                   7.       The system as recited in claim 3, wherein the computer readable  
2 medium further includes instructions executable by the microprocessor-based controller to:  
3                   process reimbursement reimbursements to the physicians upon approval by the  
4 approval authority.

1                   8.       The system as recited in claim 3, wherein the computer readable  
2 medium further includes instructions executable by the microprocessor-based controller to:  
3                   electronically transmit the reimbursement file to an accounting system adapted  
4 to process the reimbursement reimbursements to the physicians upon approval by the  
5 approval authority.

1                   9.       The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the database includes a  
2 plurality of reimbursement records associated with one physician, and wherein the computer  
3 readable medium further includes instructions executable by the microprocessor-based  
4 controller to:  
5                   accumulate the plurality of reimbursement records for the one physician into a  
6 single reimbursement record for the physician; and  
7                   process a single reimbursement reimbursement for the single reimbursement  
8 record.

1                   10.      The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the computer readable  
2 medium further includes instructions executable by the microprocessor-based controller to:  
3                   accumulate a plurality of reimbursement records in the database for one or  
4 more physicians over a predetermined period of time; and  
5                   process one or more reimbursement reimbursements to each of the one or  
6 more physicians at the end of the predetermined period of time.

1                   11.      A system for processing reimbursements to physicians for participating  
2 in a medical study, comprising:  
3                   means for receiving patient medical information from a physician relating to  
4 the medical study;

5 means for automatically validating the patient medical information;  
6 means for storing a reimbursement record in a database upon validating the  
7 patient medical information, the reimbursement record indicating at least a reimbursement  
8 amount and the physician to be reimbursed; and  
9 means for automatically processing at least one reimbursement reimbursement  
10 to each physician having reimbursement records in the database.

1 12. The system as recited in claim 11, wherein the patient medical  
2 information is selected from the group consisting of medical device information, subjective  
3 patient information, objective patient information, and patient diagnosis information.

1 13. The system as recited in claim 11, wherein the database includes a  
2 plurality of reimbursement records, and wherein the system further comprises:  
3 means for grouping at least some of the plurality of reimbursement records  
4 into a single reimbursement file; and  
5 means for providing to an approval authority access to the reimbursement file.

1 14. The system as recited in claim 13, wherein the reimbursement file  
2 comprises a spreadsheet having the at least some of the plurality of reimbursement records  
3 listed therein.

1 15. The system as recited in claim 13, wherein system further comprises:  
2 means for forwarding the reimbursement file to the approval authority  
3 electronically.

1 16. The system as recited in claim 13, wherein the system further  
2 comprises:  
3 means for allowing the approval authority to approve the reimbursement  
4 records for reimbursement reimbursements electronically.

1 17. The system as recited in claim 13, wherein the system further  
2 comprises:  
3 means for processing reimbursement reimbursements to the physicians upon  
4 approval by the approval authority.

1                   18.     The system as recited in claim 13, wherein the system further  
2 comprises:  
3                   means for electronically transmitting the reimbursement file to an accounting  
4 system adapted to process the reimbursement reimbursements to the physicians upon  
5 approval by the approval authority.

1                   19.     The system as recited in claim 11, wherein the database includes a  
2 plurality of reimbursement records associated with one physician, and wherein the system  
3 further comprises:  
4                   means for accumulating the plurality of reimbursement records for the one  
5 physician into a single reimbursement record for the physician; and  
6                   means for processing a single reimbursement reimbursement for the single  
7 reimbursement record.

1                   20.     The system as recited in claim 11, wherein the system further  
2 comprises:  
3                   means for accumulating a plurality of reimbursement records in the database  
4 for one or more physicians over a predetermined period of time; and  
5                   means for processing one or more reimbursement reimbursements to each of  
6 the one or more physicians at the end of the predetermined period of time.

1                   21.     A system for processing reimbursements to physicians for participating  
2 in one or more medical studies, wherein the one or more medical studies require physicians to  
3 perform procedures on one or more patients, the system comprising:  
4                   a microprocessor-based controller;  
5                   a computer readable medium, wherein the computer readable medium includes  
6 instructions executable by the microprocessor-based controller to:  
7                   receive medical procedure information from one or more physicians  
8 for each procedure performed by the one or more physicians on the one or more  
9 patients in the medical study;  
10                  automatically validate the medical procedure information;

11                   upon validating the medical procedure information, store a  
12           reimbursement record in a database for each procedure, the reimbursement record  
13           indicating at least a reimbursement amount and the physician to be reimbursed; and  
14                   automatically process at least one reimbursement reimbursement to  
15           each physician having one or more reimbursement records in the database.

1                   22.     The system as recited in claim 21, wherein the medical procedure  
2           information comprises information selected from the group consisting of medical device  
3           information, subjective patient information, objective patient information, medical procedure  
4           information, and patient diagnosis information.

1                   23.     The system as recited in claim 21, wherein the computer readable  
2           medium further includes instructions executable by the microprocessor-based controller to:  
3                   group at least some of the reimbursement records in the database into a single  
4           reimbursement file; and  
5                   provide to an approval authority access to the reimbursement file.

1                   24.     The system as recited in claim 23, wherein the reimbursement file  
2           comprises a spreadsheet having the at least some of the reimbursement records listed therein.

1                   25.     The system as recited in claim 23, wherein the reimbursement file is  
2           electronically forwarded to the approval authority.

1                   26.     The system as recited in claim 23, wherein the approval authority can  
2           approve the reimbursement records for reimbursement reimbursements electronically.

1                   27.     The system as recited in claim 23, wherein the computer readable  
2           medium further includes instructions executable by the microprocessor-based controller to:  
3                   process reimbursement reimbursements to the one or more physicians upon  
4           approval by the approval authority.

1                   28.     The system as recited in claim 23, wherein the computer readable  
2           medium further includes instructions executable by the microprocessor-based controller to:  
3                   electronically transmit the reimbursement file to an accounting system adapted  
4           to process the reimbursement reimbursements to the one or more physicians upon approval  
5           by the approval authority.

1                   29.     The system as recited in claim 21, wherein the database includes a  
2 plurality of reimbursement records associated with at least one of the one or more physicians,  
3 and wherein the computer readable medium further includes instructions executable by the  
4 microprocessor-based controller to:

5                   accumulate the plurality of reimbursement records for the at least one  
6 physician into a single reimbursement record for the physician; and

7                   process a single reimbursement reimbursement for the plurality for the single  
8 reimbursement record.

1                   30.     The system as recited in claim 21, wherein the computer readable  
2 medium further includes instructions executable by the microprocessor-based controller to:

3                   accumulate one or more reimbursement records in the database for the one or  
4 more physicians over a predetermined period of time; and

5                   process one or more reimbursement reimbursements to each of the one or  
6 more physicians at the end of the predetermined period of time.

1                   31.     A method for processing reimbursements to physicians for  
2 participating in one or more medical studies, wherein the one or more medical studies require  
3 physicians to perform procedures on one or more patients, the method comprising:

4                   receiving medical procedure information from one or more physicians for each  
5 procedure performed by the one or more physicians on the one or more patients in the  
6 medical study;

7                   automatically validating the medical procedure information;

8                   upon validating the medical procedure information, storing a reimbursement  
9 record in a database for each procedure, the reimbursement record indicating at least a  
10 reimbursement amount and the physician to be reimbursed; and

11                  automatically processing at least one reimbursement reimbursement to each  
12 physician having one or more reimbursement records in the database.

1                   32.     The method as recited in claim 31, wherein the medical procedure  
2 information comprises information selected from the group consisting of medical device  
3 information, subjective patient information, objective patient information, medical procedure  
4 information, and patient diagnosis information.

1                   33.     The method as recited in claim 31, further comprising:  
2                   grouping at least some of the reimbursement records in the database into a  
3                   single reimbursement file; and  
4                   providing to an approval authority access to the reimbursement file.

1                   34.     The method as recited in claim 33, wherein the reimbursement file  
2                   comprises a spreadsheet having the at least some of the reimbursement records listed therein.

1                   35.     The method as recited in claim 33, further comprising forwarding the  
2                   reimbursement file to the approval authority electronically.

1                   36.     The method as recited in claim 33; further comprising the approval  
2                   authority approving the reimbursement records for reimbursement reimbursements  
3                   electronically.

1                   37.     The method as recited in claim 33, further comprising:  
2                   processing reimbursement reimbursements to the one or more physicians upon  
3                   approval by the approval authority.

1                   38.     The method as recited in claim 33, further comprising:  
2                   electronically transmitting the reimbursement file to an accounting system  
3                   adapted to process the reimbursement reimbursements to the one or more physicians upon  
4                   approval by the approval authority.

1                   39.     The method as recited in claim 31, wherein the database includes a  
2                   plurality of reimbursement records associated with at least one of the one or more physicians,  
3                   and wherein the method further comprises:  
4                   accumulating the plurality of reimbursement records for the at least one  
5                   physician into a single reimbursement record for the physician; and  
6                   processing a single reimbursement reimbursement for the plurality for the  
7                   single reimbursement record.

1                   40.     The method as recited in claim 31, further comprising:  
2                   accumulating one or more reimbursement records in the database for the one  
3                   or more physicians over a predetermined period of time; and

- 4                    processing one or more reimbursement reimbursements to each of the one or
- 5   more physicians at the end of the predetermined period of time.